Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 153614 ORIGIN EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PO, FR

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PORTUGAL

REF: PARIS, 18443, STATE 143032

- 1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH GOF AT HIGH LEVEL TO URGE THAT GOF UNTIE OR EFFECTIVELY UNTIE ITS PROPOSED CREDIT.
- 2. THE U.S. IS PLEASED AT THE OUTCOME OF THE JUNE 22 MEET-ING AND THE DEMONSTRATED COOPERATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION AND ECONOMIC STABILIZATION IN PORTUGAL. WE APPRECIATE FRENCH DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL AND TO INCREASE THE PROPOSED AMOUNT OF THE FRENCH CREDIT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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15 MILLION DOLS.

3. THE U.S. HOPES THAT THE GOF WOULD REVIEW THE FORM OF THEIR PROPOSED ASSISTANCE AND EXPLORE FULLY MECHANISMS TO PROVIDE AN UNTIED OR EFFECTIVELY UNTIED CREDIT. PARTICIPANTS AT THE FIRST MEETING IN MAY RECOGNIZED THAT BECAUSE PORTUGAL'S FINANCING NEEDS ARE NEAR TERM AND CRITICAL, UN-

TIED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS LOANS WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRI-ATE FORM OF ASSISTANCE. AS A RESULT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE FOUND MECHANISMS TO PROVIDE UNTIED CREDITS. AT PRESENT COUNTRIES HAVE INDICATED FIRM COMMITMENTS TO PROVIDE ABOUT 680 MILLION DOLS IN UNTIED LOANS. ONLY THREE COUNTRIES --JAPAN (FOR A PART OF ITS CREDIT) CANADA AND FRANCE HAVE INDICATED DIFFICULTY WITH UNTYING. WE ARE URGING ALL 3 TO FIND MEANS TO EFFECTIVELY UNTIE ALL THEIR PROPOSED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS LOANS FOR PORTUGAL. WITH OTHERS, AT CONSIDER-ABLE EFFORT, OFFERING ABOUT 700 MILLION DOLS IN UNTIED CRE-DIT. IT IS INAPPROPRIATE THAT SOME 50-60 MILLION DOLS FROM THESE 3 COUNTRIES BE EFFECTIVELY TIED TO NATIONAL EXPORTS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT FRANCE COULD FIND AN UNTIED MECHANISM SO THAT THE FORM OF THE GOF CREDIT WOULD BE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH PORTUGAL'S FINANCING NEEDS AND THE ASSISTANCE PLEDGED BY OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

4. IF THE GOF CANNOT PROVIDE A FULLY UNTIED LOAN WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE FRENCH COULD MAKE A HELPFUL EFFORT TO EFFECTIVELY UNTIE THEIR CREDIT. FOR EXAMPLE, AN ASSIGNMENT OF THE PROPOSED CREDITS TO PREVIOUS FRENCH EXPORTS, INCLUDING A BROAD BASE OF CONSUMER AND DURABLE GOODS, WOULD ELIMINATE TYING TO NEW PURCHASES. THE GOF COULD ALSO OFFER A MEDIUMTERM EXTENSION OF EXPORT CREDITS DUE TO BE REPAID OVER THE NEXT 18 MONTHS. SUCH ARRANGEMENTS TO AFFORD EFFECTIVE UNTYING WOULD MAKE THE FRENCH CREDIT RAPIDLY DISBURSING BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELEASING PORTUGUESE EXCHANGE FOR GENERAL WORLDWIDE PROCUREMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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